



HHC, 312th MI

Headhunter Newsletter

January 26, 2004



A Note from the Commander

CPT Bishop is on a leader recon overseas.

Kristen's Corner

Here we are getting our soldiers ready to deploy next month. As we get closer to the date, I am learning a little about what it is the soldiers are about to be facing in Iraq. Let me tell you that when our soldiers land overseas, it will be about a month before we should really count on hearing from them. Waiting lines for phones have been reported to be 3 hours+ long, where they will be initially. Please feel free to contact me if you feel you are not being informed of their situation and/or their well-being. The first month or so will be difficult, but hopefully once they get settled we will start hearing from them more regularly.

I would like to address a problem we are having with phone calls. We cannot be making long distance calls. I will not ask key callers to add these to their long distance bills. If you are not in the area, it is your responsibility alone to contact the FRG when/if you are in need of information. The other option is to provide me with an email address and I will email you at least monthly with any FRG info I have. We are starting up a Battalion web site as well, for families to gain information on their soldier and his/her unit. I will have the web address before the next meeting.

If you do not normally come to FRG meetings, I encourage you to come to our Battalion level deployment brief on 12FEB at noon. An added benefit to getting LOTS of information: Any soldier, whose spouse is there will be released when the meeting is over at 2:30. Let's try to keep our spirits up and enjoy the last month we have with our families. God Bless.

-Kristen Bishop
FRG Leader

Treasury and Fundraising

We had a very successful month this month. We received \$1500.00 in donations from Lear Corporation to help our FRG. We are giving \$500 to the Battalion to help with Ball costs. The rest we will keep to help pay for our activities during deployment and mailing packages.

On January 13th, we teamed up with **APPLEBEE'S** for their Dining to Donate Program. We made \$ 89.00.

Thanks to the t-shirts being battalion level we were able to sell to the entire battalion instead of just the company. We made about \$400 from t-shirt sales. There have been a lot of people asking for a second order. We will probably do another go-round after the soldiers deploy.

Community and Unit Calendar

January 30 Wild West night at the O-Club. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door. Child Care available. Call the Officer's Club for more info. 532-5329.

February 5- Battalion Ball at the Officer's Club on Post Please be there NLT 6pm.

February 11: HHC FRG meeting Family Readiness Center 18:30

February 12: BN Deployment brief noon-2:30pm at the Officer Club (colonial Ball Room) Pizza will be provided. CYS will be on hand to provide free care for kids, (bring shot records). If a soldier has their spouse at the meeting, the soldier will be dismissed at the end of the meeting.

Phantom Distro Information

PAY: The official 2004 Military Pay Tables have been loaded to the DFAS Web page. Pay Tables can be viewed at:

<http://www.dfas.mil/money/milpay/pay/>

Direct questions to your servicing finance battalion or the 13th Finance Group Operations Office at 254/288-1617 or 254/287-6773.

IRAQ MAIL: Mailing address will not be released until unit has reached it's final

destination. Mail may not include any of the following; Lewd/Pornographic Material, Alcohol, Fireworks, Drugs, Weapons. Mail transit time is 15-20 days. Soldiers are authorized free mailing of personal letters or sound recorded correspondence weighing 13 oz or less.

Army One Source

AOC is a 24 hour , 7 day a week toll-free information and referral telephone line and internet/web based service available to active, mobilized reserves, deployed civilians and their families worldwide. AOS provides information ranging from everyday concerns to deployments and reintegration issues. Additionally, if there us a need for face-to-face counseling, AOS will provide referrals to professional civilian counselors for assistance. No Tri-Care referral needed. www.armyonesource.com. At the User ID, type in Army; enter Onesource as the password and proceed to the next page.

Army Knowledge Online

It is highly recommended that every spouse sign up for an AKO account. You will be able to see a wealth of information regarding the mission & the soldiers. You will also be provided with an email account at no cost to you. Please go to https://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal_home.jhtml

In the 'New User' box, please hit the 'register for AKO' link. Click 'Next' in the 'Guest accounts' box. Type in your Army Sponsor's user name (get this from your soldier) and then choose 'Family member' for account type. Fill in your information in the 'user information' box. Click 'Next'. You will be able to see a wealth of information regarding the mission and the soldiers deployed.

MY PAY/TAXES

The Army has set up an on line service for soldiers where they can access their LES. Soldiers need to set up this account before the deployment so spouses can access their

LES on line. There have been fake sites set up to con soldiers & steal their identities. The legitimate web site is <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. W2 forms are currently available for printing from this site. Point of Contact for tax filing is your servicing finance unit or 13th Finance Group Operations at 288-1617 or 287-6773.

CYSAC

Fort Hood CYS has implemented new fees.

- Annual Registration Fee from \$15.00 to \$18.00 per child/youth or maximum registration fee of \$40.00 per family.
- The Hourly Child Care Fee increases from \$2.50 per hour to \$3.00 per hour for patrons in CAT II-VI and \$2.25 per hour for patrons in CAT I.
- The YS Sports Team Fees will increase beginning with the Spring YS sports soccer season in April 2004.

CAT A Soccer, Flag Football,
Cheerleading - \$35.00

CAT B Baseball, Softball,
Basketball - \$35.00

Volunteer coaches are needed for the winter sports season. Primary coach must be an adult. For more info, call the Youth Sports Center at 288-3770.

Fort Hood Child and Youth Services Openings – Both the Child Development Centers and School Age Sites have child-care openings for a variety of ages.

School Age Services offers activities for 6-10 year olds every Tues-Thurs, from 3:30-5:30 p.m, from now until the end of the school year. The cost is only \$2 per hour, plus occasional special event fees.

Usage cards can be purchased for 12/24 hrs Central Registration or the Walker-Meadows SAS. The cost is \$24 for 12 hours or \$48 for 24 hours. Activities include: bowling, home alone skills, skating, scrapbooking, computer camp, sewing, skill building and much more.

Call Central Registration at 287-8029 for more info about enrolling a child at CDC/SAS. We are now located at the Rivers Building, corner of Hood Rd. and 761st Tank Destroyer Blvd.

HEALTH CONSUMER COUNCIL

The hospital parking lot is expanding the Red Cross needs mobile drivers. A new parking plan will be in place by February 04. If you're interested in helping please call the American Red Cross at 287-0400.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fort Hood Area Military Family Member (FHAMFM) Scholarship Fund is an independent organization developed to provide scholarships. Open to high school seniors and military spouses, must possess a current military ID card and live in Bell, Coryell, Lampasas or Williamson County.

Applications are available for the FHAMFM Scholarship Fund 2003-2004 academic year. **Applications must be postmarked by 24 March 2004.**

Scholarships are awarded based on academic record, job record, volunteer work, participation in community-based activities, letters of recommendation and a brief essay. Financial need is not a factor.

Look for application forms at the following locations: Fort Hood Education Center, Lane Volunteer Center, Thrift Shop, 1st Cav Family Readiness Center, and all area high school counselors. For more information call (254) 286-2334. Please leave your name and phone number and allow 48 hours for a response.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Women's Conference is a series of workshops designed to enlighten, motivate and strengthen military women in their various roles as mothers, wives & contributors to the army & civilian community. It is for ALL military wives & female soldiers, all ranks, active duty or retired. It is March 4th & 5th at the Main Post Chapel. The fee is \$15 non-refundable. This covers breakfast & lunch both days, 6 classes of your choice, the speaker (Mary Ann Meigs) & tote bag full of goodies from local businesses. The deadline for registration is February 17th; There is no childcare available at the conference and children are not allowed. Registration forms are available at Darnall Hospital, and can be downloaded from www.forthoodowc.org. Or call the hotline number at 539-3905.

FREEDOM QUILT FEST

WE NEED YOUR FABRIC, QUILT BLOCKS, QUILT TOPS, OR COMPLETED HAND MADE QUILTS!!! (cotton quilting fabric only please.) Also--batting, thread, needles, embroidery thread, rotary mats, rotary rulers and rotary cutters, AND people with sewing machines!! Betty Nielsen, the founder of Freedom Quilts, is coming to Fort Hood Mar25 & 26 to help make and present FREE quilts to the Fort Hood families who have lost their soldiers. The ladies of 4ID have donated the money to bring Betty to Fort Hood for this great event. We will be having a GIGANTIC quilt making day to make quilts for Freedom Quilts on March 25, and MORE quilt making & a presentation by Mrs. Nielsen on the 26th. If you would like to help or if you have questions, fabric or money to donate, please contact LeAnn Volesky at 200-2995. There will also be several smaller interim quilting events and classes scheduled. One is Monday, Feb 23 from 9-4pm at the 1st Cav FRG Center sponsored by the 2-5 CAV FRG. Come and enjoy a few hours of an old fashioned quilting bee! You don't need to know how to sew to help. Come for 1 hr or 7 hrs!

Apache Arts and Crafts' Internet café now offers video-on-demand.

Cyber Surf Café is equipped to offer video messaging. Video-on-demand is available at Cyber Surf Café, from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Monday and 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Record a special message for any loved one with an internet connection and access to a computer, and they will receive the video in real time. This new feature is made possible through an internet communications provider. All users must sign up on their website prior to recording a message. The service costs \$7.95/month & a credit card is needed to sign up on the website prior to use. Pay only \$1/15 minutes or \$4/hour of computer time at Cyber Surf, plus additional fees for the use of the recording feature. **Please call 532-2586 for additional information.**

NEWSLETTER

Have something to add to the newsletter? Please contact me by the February 6th.
POC: Kristen Bishop, 254-542-4794
Email: kristen.bishop@us.army.mil

